State source water assessment

We are dedicated to protecting source waters and ensuring quality finished water is delivered to you.

The Colorado Source Water Assessment and Protection, or SWAP, program is a preventative approach to protecting public drinking water supplies.

At this time, our Source Water Assessment Report is in the process of being corrected. When it is finalized, it will be available at www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/sw/swaphom.html, or call (303) 692-3592.

Vulnerable populations advisory

Some individuals may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the public in general. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV-AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and microbiological contaminants, call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or visit www.epa.gov/safewater.

Information about radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found in the soil throughout the United States. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can reach high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also be released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through the soil, radon entering the home through tap water will be, in most cases, a small source of radon in the indoor air.

Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air that contains radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water that contains radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is four (4) picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are relatively inexpensive. For additional information, call the state radon program at 303-692-3030, call the EPA Radon Hotline 1-800-SOS-RADON, or visit www.epa.gov/iaq/radon.

- *Note: In 2004, the radon level from the Woodmen water treatment plant was 32 pCi/L.*

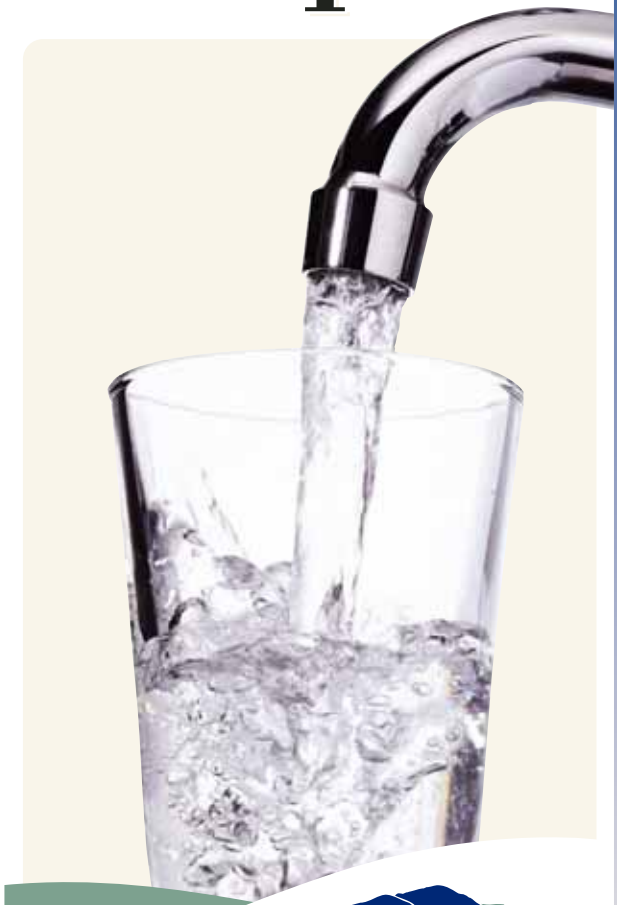
Our customers have a voice in decisions

We encourage customer participation in decisions affecting our drinking water.

- Utilities Board – our governing body – meets the Wednesday between City Council meetings, 9 a.m. at the Plaza of the Rockies South Tower, 121 S. Tejon St., fifth floor. Call **(719) 448-4800** or visit **www.csu.org** for information.

For more water quality information, questions about this report or to request additional copies for posting in common areas, call (719) 668-4560.

2006 Water Quality Report



Colorado Springs Utilities

It's how we're all connected

PWSID# CO0121150

The information contained in this document complies with the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act which requires water utilities to provide annual water quality information to customers. Businesses and landlords are encouraged to share this report with non-billed users.

We're proud to report that the water provided by Colorado Springs Utilities meets or exceeds established water quality standards.

We serve nearly 372,094 people in the Pikes Peak region, including the following communities: Colorado Springs, Green Mountain Falls and Chipita Park.

Es un placer reportar que el agua proporcionada por las Utilidades de Colorado Springs excede la norma de calidad establecida. Este documento contiene información importante, la cual cumple con el documento redactado en 1996 Agua para tomar el cual requiere que las utilidades informen a sus clientes acerca de la calidad del agua que beben. Si no la pueden leer, necesitan que alguien se la traduzca. Para mas informacion, llamenos at telefono 448-4800.

Water sources

Your water is blended from multiple sources, including surface water, ground water and purchased water. Your water source may vary throughout the year.

With no major water source nearby, our raw water collection system originates from nearly 200 miles away, near Aspen, Leadville, and Breckenridge. Almost 75 percent of our water originates from mountain streams. Water from these streams is collected and stored in numerous reservoirs along the Continental Divide. Collection systems in this area consist of the Homestake, Fryingpan-Arkansas, Twin Lakes, and Blue River systems.

The majority of this raw water is transferred to our city through pipelines that help to protect it from contamination, such as herbicides, pesticides, heavy metals, and other chemicals.

After the long journey, water is stored locally at Rampart Reservoir and the Catamount reservoirs on Pikes Peak before it is treated at one of our water treatment plants and delivered to your home or business.

In addition to our transmountain water supply, we also use local water sources.

Local surface waters originate from:
- North and South Slopes of Pikes Peak
- North and South Cheyenne Creeks
- Fountain Creek
- Monument Creek – Pikeview Reservoir
- Northfield Watershed

Local groundwater sources consist of:
- four wells (900-1,000 feet deep) pumped from the Arapahoe aquifer
- one well (700 feet deep) pumped from the Denver aquifer
- one well (1,700 feet deep) pumped from the Laramie-Fox Hills aquifer
- four wells (46-52 feet deep) pumped from the Widefield aquifer*

**The Widefield aquifer was not used as a source in 2005.*

Treated surface water is also purchased from the Fountain Valley Authority, or FVA (PWSID # CO0121300). FVA receives water from the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project – a system of pipes and tunnels that collects water in the Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness Area near Aspen. Waters collected from this system are diverted to the Arkansas River, near Buena Vista, and then flow about 150 miles downstream to Pueblo Reservoir. From there, the water travels through a pipeline to a water treatment plant before being delivered to Colorado Springs.

What's in our water?

The sources of drinking water – both tap water and bottled water – include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** that may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

This table shows the combined results of our monitoring for six water treatment plants for the period of Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2005, unless otherwise noted.

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	CCR Unit	Level Detected (Range)	Violation Yes or No	Sample Dates	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Organic Carbon	TT	N/A	N/A	N/A*	No	Running Annual Average	Naturally present in the environment
* The Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule provides several alternative compliance criteria besides the TOC removal ratios. We did not report TOC removal ratios because we met an alternative compliance criteria. The alternative compliance criteria that we use is §141.135 (a)(2)(ii). Our treated water TOC levels are <2.0 ppm calculated quarterly as a running annual average.							
Turbidity	TT = 1 NTU	N/A	NTU	0.32	No	Jan.-Dec. 2005	Soil runoff
Lowest Monthly Percent of readings above the TT limits	TT = 95% of samples <0.3 NTU			100%			
(Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.)							
Radionuclides							
Beta/photon emitters	Trigger Level = 50	0	pCi/L	4.44 (ND-4.44)	No	Sep. 2001 & May 2003	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Combined radium	5	0	pCi/L	2.2 (ND-2.2)	No	Jan., April, July, Aug., Oct., Nov. 2004 & Feb., May, Aug., Nov. 2005	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	30	0	ppb	0.8 (ND-0.8)	No	Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. 2005	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead and Copper							
Copper**	1.3	1.3	ppm	0.220	No	June-Sept. 2003	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead**	15	0	ppb	5	No	June-Sept. 2003	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
** – No sites exceeded the Action Level out of the 50 residential sites sampled. The reported detected level is the average at the 90th percentile. The 90th percentile is the 45th largest result out of the 50 samples taken.							
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium	2	2	ppm	0.0553 (0.0143-0.0553)	No	Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. 2005	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium	4	4	ppb	0.7 (ND-0.7)	No	Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. 2005	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium	5	5	ppb	0.86 (ND-0.86)	No	Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. 2005	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium	100	100	ppb	0.76 (ND-0.76)	No	Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. 2005	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	4	4	ppm	1.77 (0.16-1.77)	No	Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. 2005	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	10	10	ppm	0.57 (ND-0.57)	No	Jan., Feb., April, May, July, & Oct. 2005	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Inorganic Contaminants							
Sodium	N/A	N/A	ppm	27.8 (7.23-27.8)	N/A	Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. 2005	Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
Chlorine	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	ppm	0.41 (0.05-2.0)	No	Jan.-Dec. 2005	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids 5 (HAA5)	60	N/A	ppb	24 (ND-39)	No	Jan., April, May, July, Oct 2005	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	80	N/A	ppb	34 (0.5-59)	No	Jan., April, May, July, Oct 2005	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Notes

- *The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old.*
- *The state has issued Springs Utilities waivers for asbestos, cyanide, dioxin, glyphosate, nitrite and all unregulated inorganic contaminants.*

Explanation of the water quality results table

This table includes both regulated and unregulated substances found in our water supply. It outlines the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, and the likely sources of such contamination.

Definitions

Below are explanations of the abbreviations and terms used in the water quality results table.

- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The "maximum allowed" is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The "goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water, below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant, below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **N/A:** Not Applicable
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of five NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **Non-Detects (ND) or Below Detection Level (BDL):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present. ("<" Symbol for less than, the same as ND or BDL)
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/L):** One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in $10,000,000.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L):** One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or one penny in $10,000.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of radioactivity in water.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Waiver:** State permission not to test for a specific contaminant.